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to the ceiling. The inventory, a list of the goods which the prisoners are permitted to have purchased for them, and a booklet with the prison regulations are hanging on the wall.

- b. The size of the large cells is about 6 by 6 by 3.8 meters. About 1.5 meters from the floor there are two windows 100 by 180 cm. large. The windows are barred in the same manner as those of the solitary cells, only there are three rows of flat pieces of iron. The door is the same, only there is no trap window. The cell is furnished with 10 beds, one table, two benches, 10 small chests (one above each bed) for toilet articles, etc., one wash table with basin and one water jug. As in the solitary cells, there is one lamp, and the lists and the booklet with the prison regulations are fastened to the wall.

5. The prison routine was as follows:

6 a.m.	Reveille (a bell was rung), cleaning the cells, emptying the pails, rollcall in the cells, breakfast
7 a.m.	Start of work, which lasted until 3:30 p.m. (only part of the prisoners had to work)
11:30 - 11:50 a.m.	Lunch hour; the prisoners not working ate in their cells
3:30 p.m.	Return to the cells, supper, emptying pails
4 - 4:30 p.m.	Rollcall in the cells, locking of the cells; on Saturdays the cells were locked at 1 p.m.
9 p.m.	Bedtime (a bell was rung); in winter, curfew was at 8 p.m.

- a. Rollcall in the cells was conducted as follows. All inmates had to line up, with the senior ("starsi") at the head of the line. When the supervisor, or chief of the ward, opened the door he said "Good day", whereupon the senior inmate called: "Attention, Cell X (giving the appropriate number), X men (giving the appropriate number of inmates), everything in order!" The supervisor replied "Thank you". In case one of the inmates was sick or wanted to attend the "big" rollcall, the supervisor noted it down in his service book which either he or the "chodbar" (prisoner used for certain tasks), who usually accompanied him, carried. The supervisor was always armed with a pistol during rollcalls.

- b. The food was always distributed by the "chodbar". The cell doors were unlocked during the distribution and the bowls were returned after the meals.

- c. The pails were usually emptied by the "chodbar".

6. Every Thursday at 9 a.m., the "big" rollcall took place in the reception room on the ground floor. For this rollcall, the prisoners reporting had to line

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up by wards in the ground floor hallway. They were admitted to the reception room individually, where two wardens (only on office duty) listened to their wishes. Questions of the prisoners were mostly answered by the wardens right away. The director of the prison never attended these rollcalls.

7. The inmates of a cell had to wash the floor once a week. No certain day was set aside for this work.
8. Approximately 20 prisoners were selected for work every day. However, volunteers were accepted, too. The prisoners were assigned to work in the prison workshops and to "brigades" on JZDs or elsewhere. The prisoners on outside work details were guarded by one guard armed with a pistol and a sub-machine gun for each group of eight prisoners. People arrested after 1948 for political reasons were permitted to work only in their cells, where they pasted paper bags. Once or twice, such prisoners were taken out in the fall during the potato harvest. Very rarely, specialists were assigned to work inside the prison. The prisoners were paid for their work. A prisoner exceeding his work quota received 20 or 30% of his earnings. For making paper bags, 40 Kcs. were paid daily. The prisoners not working also received one to two Kcs. per day for postage, etc.
9. Smoking in the cell was permitted during the day, but sitting or lying on the bed was forbidden. An exception was made if the doctor ordered a sick man to stay in bed.
10. At irregular times, but once a day, all prisoners were led to the garden, where they could walk around in a set circle for one hour. During the walk the prisoners were watched by two guards who were posted opposite each other, one on each side of the circle. The female prisoners took their walks in another garden. On Sundays, the prisoners were not taken out for a walk.
11. The prisoners were divided into four disciplinary classes:
 - a. Class I: the worst. These prisoners were each permitted to write and receive one letter every two months. They were permitted to have visitors only every two months. They had less money than the members of Class II. Their heads were shaved. They had to sit behind a wire mesh barrier when talking to their visitors.
 - b. Class II. The members of this class wore their hair cropped to a length of three cm. They were permitted to write and receive visitors every four weeks. They were permitted to spend 50 Kcs. for additional food and 90 Kcs. for tobacco goods per month.
 - c. Class III. The members of this class were permitted to write and receive visitors every three weeks. They had 70 Kcs. for additional food allotted to them per month. They were permitted to have their own books, but had to leave them behind upon their release. When talking to visitors, they were placed behind a wall about one meter high.
 - d. Class IV. Members of this class were permitted to write and receive visitors every two weeks. In addition to being allowed to wear their hair as long as they wished, they were also allowed to wear mustaches and were permitted to own musical instruments. Everything else was the same as for Class III.
12. Each new arrival started in Class I and was promoted to the higher classes in accordance with his conduct and work performance.

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13. The total number of prisoners fluctuated between 150 and 300; approximately 45 of them were women. The majority of the inmates were sick and weak and had been transferred to this prison from other prisons. Since about 1951, new prisoners had been delivered to Opava only in small groups and during the night. Upon arrival, each prisoner received a prison suit (mud color), a cap (recently, peaked caps were also issued), a set of underwear, one pair of shoes, one pair of foot bandages (rags), one handkerchief, one towel, one bed sheet, one pillowcase, two blankets, one spoon of light metal and two plastic mugs. The underwear was changed every Friday - sometimes on Saturdays.
14. There were approximately 20 male supervisors and one female. About two men and two women were permanently assigned to office duty. All of them wore green uniforms. The violet facings were replaced by red ones in 1952 or 1953.
15. Packages sent to the prisoners could not weigh more than $1\frac{1}{2}$ kg. Exceptions were made, however, and based upon special work performance a prisoner might be granted permission to receive a parcel of three or even five kg. Of the contents, meat, bacon, fat, butter, alcoholic beverages, glass, tin, cigarettes and matches were impounded. The prisoners were entitled, however, to decide to whom these items were to be sent. Random checks were made on cake or bread by cutting it.

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Opava Prison
(Not to scale)

xxx Fence
o Lampposts
x Sentry Posts

